

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01 ORM-02 DHA-02
/086 W

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R 090645Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3016
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12574

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, VM
SUBJ: AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM AND OTHER AMERICAN-VIETNAMESE CONSULAR
MATTERS

SUMMARY: UNHCR OFFICIAL REVIEWS PROGRESS MADE IN VARIOUS CONSULAR
MATTERS AFFECTING US DURING VISIT JUST CONCLUDED TO VIET-NAM.
END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFFS MET JUNE 7 WITH DARRYL HAN, UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN HANOI
UNTIL NINE MONTHS AGO AND CURRENTLY IN GENEVA, TO REVIEW DEVELOP-
MENTS CONCERNING FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND REPATRIATION WHICH EMERGED
DURING HIS JUST COMPLETED VISIT TO VIET-NAM. MAIN POINTS AS FOLLOWS.

2. AMERICANS AND DEPENDENTS OF AMERICANS. HAN USED OCCASION
PROVDED BY DINNER GIVEN BY HIS FORMER COUNTERPART IN MFA'S INTER-
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NATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEPT TO PURSUE THIS SUBJECT. HIS HOST SAID
THAT EACH CASE WILL BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS AND URGED THAT ALL
SUCH PERSONS IN THIS CATEGORY APPLY WITH DOCUMENTS TO SAIGON
IMMIGRATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO LEAVE. HE WAS PARTICULARLY
FORTHCOMING AS TO POSSIBILITY OF DEPARTURE OF U.S.-PASSPORT HOLDING
CHILDREN IN THE SOUTH WHO WISH TO LEAVE, NOTING IN THIS RESPECT
THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ACTIVELY PURSUING CASE OF RICHARD NGUYEN

ANH TU XUAN. HAN URGES THAT WE CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS MATTER IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE IN PARIS AS UNHCR WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH IN HANOI.

3. REUNIFICATION OF VIETNAMESE. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH MFA AND VIETNAMESE RED CROSS OFFICIALS, HAN RECEIVED VIETNAMESE PROMISE TO CONSIDER EACH APPLICATION OF A VIETNAMESE ABROAD TO BE JOINED BY A RELATIVE CURRENTLY IN VIET-NAM. WITH RESPECT SPECIFICALLY TO VIETNAMESE LIVING IN THE U.S., PROCEDURE SRV WISHES TO BE FOLLOWED IS FOR THE PARTICULAR VIETNAMESE TO CONTACT THE SRV MISSION TO THE UN OR THE SRV EMBASSY IN OTTAWA. AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO CONTACT THE UNHCR, WHICH WILL INTURN GET THE TWO PARTIES TOGETHER. FOR ITS PART, UNHCR WILL SUPPORT THE APPLICATION IN HANOI.

4. REPATRIATION. AS FOR THOSE VIETNAMESE WISHING TO RETURN TO VIET-NAM FROM THE U.S. OR ELSEWHERE, THE VIETNAMESE INDICATED CLEARLY THEIR PREFERENCE TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE APPLICANT AT AN SRV EMBASSY OR MISSION. UNHCR CAN HELP THE PARTIES GET TOGETHER ONLY IF REQUIRED BY CIRCUMSTANCES. ASKED WHETHER WE COULD EXPECT MANY SUCH APPLICATIONS TO BE APPROVED, HAN OPINED THAT, SINCE SOME CASES HAVE BEEN APPROVED IN THE PAST, ONE COULD PROBABLY EXPECT TO SEE SOME ADDITIONAL ONES ACCEPTED, AS WELL.

5. UNHCR OPERATIONS IN VIET-NAM. HAN SAID THE VIETNAMESE HAVE GIVEN PERMISSION FOR UNHCR TO ESTABLISH A "PRESENCE" IN SAIGON, WHEN REQUIRED. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT WHEN SPECIAL EVACUATION FLIGHTS WERE TO BE ORGANIZED, FOR EXAMPLE (E.G., FOR CAMBODIANS HOLDING FRENCH VISAS), UNHCR WILL SEND PERSONNEL THERE FOR AS LONG A PERIOD AS NECESSARY.

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6. THE WORDS AND THE REALITY. HAN WARNED THAT JUST BECAUSE HANOI OFFICIALS MAKE PROMISES OF ACTION THE SRV WILL TAKE DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO THE LETTER. IN HANOI SECURITY ELEMENTS HAVE A STRONG SAY IN THESE MATTERS. IN SAIGON OFFICIALS VARIOUSLY MISINTERPRET INSTRUCTIONS, DELAY EXECUTING THEM FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, OR SIMPLY CHOOSE NOT TO CARRY THEM OUT AT ALL. ALL OF THE ABOVE, THEREFORE, WILL REQUIRE CONSTANT FOLLOW-UP ON THE PART OF THE UNHCR OFFICE IN HANOI.

7. PROCESSING. WE WENT OVER PROCEDURES THAT HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED OVER THE PAST YEAR IN BANGKOK FOR PROCESSING IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR THOSE DEPENDENTS OF AMCITS OR PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS (PRA) WHO MANAGE TO DEPART VIETNAM LEGALLY. HAN INDICATED HE THOUGHT MORE CASES WOULD BE APPROVED IN SRV IF APPLICANTS WERE MORE FULLY DOCUMENTED. FOR EXAMPLE, HAN SAID, AN SRV OFFICIAL REVIEWING AN APPLICATION FOR AN EXIT PERMIT MIGHT BE MORE FORTHCOMING IF COPIES OF BASIC DOCUMENTS SUCH AS MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES, ETC. WERE ALSO MADE PART OF THE APPLICATION. IN A NUMBER OF CASES THAT CAME

TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION, DEPENDENTS LEFT BEHIND IN SVN IN 1975 DESTROYED WHAT THEY PROBABLY CONSIDERED THEN AS INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE OF TIES WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY BANGKOK WILL IN THE FUTURE ADVISE INQUIRERS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THEIR RELATIVES IN SVN COPIES OF PRIME DOCUMENTATION.

8. EMBOFFS ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY HOPED THAT THE SRV WOULD DO A BETTER JOB IN COORDINATING DEPARTURES OF ALIEN DEPENDENTS IN THE FUTURE TO GIVE AUTHORITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS U.S. CONSULAR OFFICERS, TIME TO PREPROCESS CASES. IN THE FEW INSTANCES WHERE U.S. OR PRA DEPENDENTS HAVE EXITED VIETNAM LEGALLY, THE EMBASSY HAS HAD LITTLE OR NO ADVANCE WARNING. YET THE EMBASSY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR THESE ALIENS TO REMAIN IN THAILAND FOR PROCESSING MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM WITH THAI IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS.

9. HAN AGREED WITH THESE POINTS AND INDICATED THAT IN HIS VIEW WE
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WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH THIS BASIC PROBLEM OF LACK OF COORDINATION IN THE SRV UNTIL CENTRAL CONTROL IS FULLY ESTABLISHED.
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Message Attributes

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PROGRESS MADE IN V
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